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UMSL's Fiscal Future: Panel Discusses Possible \$17 Million Deficit for Fiscal Year 2018

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

A HANDFUL of students gathered in the SGA Chambers on April 19 to hear panelists discuss the internalities and externalities of the budget deficit and projections for the upcoming fiscal year at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

The panelists included Chief Financial Officer Rick Baniak, Dean of the College of Business Charles Hoffman, Chancellor Tom George, and Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) representative Jordan Lucas, senior, economics.

Baniak said that administrators and faculty have been working collectively over the past year to analyze expenditures and determine whether the right amount of money is being invested in the right places, while also looking to improve recruitment and ensure that the student experience is as strong as it can be.

“The sum of all those things together has put us into a spot where we’re actually ahead of plan, and it



Students listen to panelists discuss the challenges of fiscal year 2017.

looks like we can balance our budget for [fiscal year] 17. So I think to the credit of everybody on the campus, we’ve actually overcome ... a big hurdle,” said Baniak.

Baniak said that the university, however, will likely be looking at an even higher \$17 million hurdle that it must overcome in FY18.

He explained that fiscal year

17 was set up to be a difficult year for UMSL from the beginning. The university was facing a \$15 million deficit when discussions about FY17 first began.

In light of the \$15 million deficit, Chancellor George and his leadership team set in place a plan to reduce that deficit to \$3.6 million.

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UMSL Chief of Police Forrest Van Ness to Retire in May



Captain Marisa Smith, Chief of UMSL Police and Director of Institutional Safety Forrest Van Ness, and Captain Dan Freet in the UMSL Police Station.

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

CHIEF OF the University Missouri–St. Louis Police Department and director of institutional safety Forrest Van Ness has announced that he will retire from both of his positions at the university next month.

Van Ness, an UMSL alumnus who attended the university from 1980 to 1991, started as chief of UMSL PD in 2010 and succeeded former chief of police Bob Roesler.

A veteran and graduate of the FBI National Academy, Van Ness served nearly 30 years as the captain of the St. Louis County Police Department prior to becoming police chief at the university. His last day with UMSL PD is set to be May 12.

As chief, Van Ness has been responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the police department, parking and transportation, the campus locksmiths, and the department of environmental health and safety. Van Ness has committed himself and the police department to maintaining international accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and positive relations between UMSL PD and the campus body.

He spoke with The Current about his time as chief, his commitment to UMSL and higher education, and the future he foresees for UMSL PD.

The Current (TC): What changes have you seen while you’ve been chief of police here?

Van Ness: We did not have 24-hour supervision when I came. We had three sergeants, and we had some officers that filled in when the sergeants were absent, but we really didn’t have someone with the supervisory experience to make sure that the officers are given the support that they need to do the job that they’re tasked with. It started with first-line supervisors. We were able to create six positions. When people left, we replaced them with a sergeant, so the cost was minimal to do that.

We [also] developed a recruitment plan with a minority component. With that, we have two different bureaus within the department. We have a police operations [bureau], and then special operations are the engagement component. So we have two different missions within those bureaus, and then we’ve got the command [officers] to run those.

TC: What is it like working at UMSL PD on a daily basis?

Van Ness: I start early. I start at six in the morning so that I can catch the midnight officers before they get off. And then the phone starts to ring.

Communication is paramount. We can’t work in a vacuum. The things that we do revolve around that professionalism [that comes

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UMSL Offers Interdisciplinary Global Studies Certificates

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

NOTHING EXISTS in isolation; yet traditional tracks of studies at universities artificially divide knowledge into discrete and separate courses of study and branches of knowledge. Even the best scientists and doctors must learn to write well to communicate their findings, and the best creative writers must have some concept of the people and cultures about which they are writing. Two new certificates and a proposed major at the University of Missouri–St. Louis reflect this interdisciplinary approach to knowledge.

On April 5, UMSL held two panel discussions to celebrate the launch of two global studies certificates. The programs aim to help faculty, staff, and students become more aware of the global role that St. Louis plays in the world, as well

as how to become more culturally competent as St. Louis becomes a more interconnected place.

Launched last fall, the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity, and the Global Health and Social Medicine minor not only give students unique and marketable skills in a global world; they also enable students to showcase these skills on their transcripts for future employers. Students who study topics as diverse as foreign languages and cultures, anthropology, social work, criminal justice, public health, cross-cultural education, medical research, biological sciences, international business, urban planning, and political Science can all benefit from these interdisciplinary minors.

Betsy Cohen, the Executive Director of the St. Louis Mosaic Project, opened the first panel on demographics, integration, and the

Global Cities Initiative. She cited a study conducted by Jack Strauss, who conducts demographic research and St. Louis University’s Simon Center for Regional Economic Forecasting. In the study, Strauss found that in 2015, St. Louis was the 20th largest metro area in the United States. However, it was 43rd in the number of people who were born in a foreign country, with less than 5 percent of the population being foreign-born in 2012. Compared to the top 20 metropolitan areas in the country, Strauss found that other cities’ economies were growing 40 percent faster than the economy in St. Louis, indicating that slower immigration rates negatively affected our city and driving the argument that St. Louis should do more to become a welcoming place for immigrants.

Even though St. Louis’s foreign

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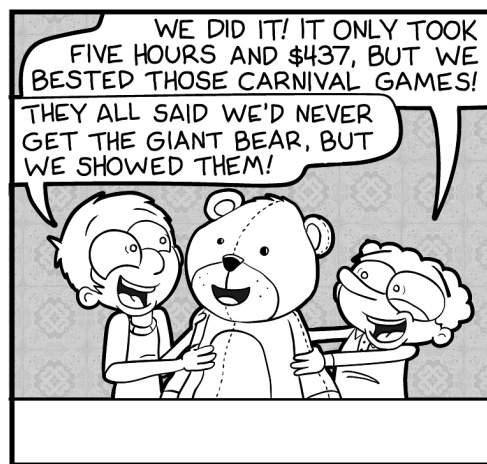
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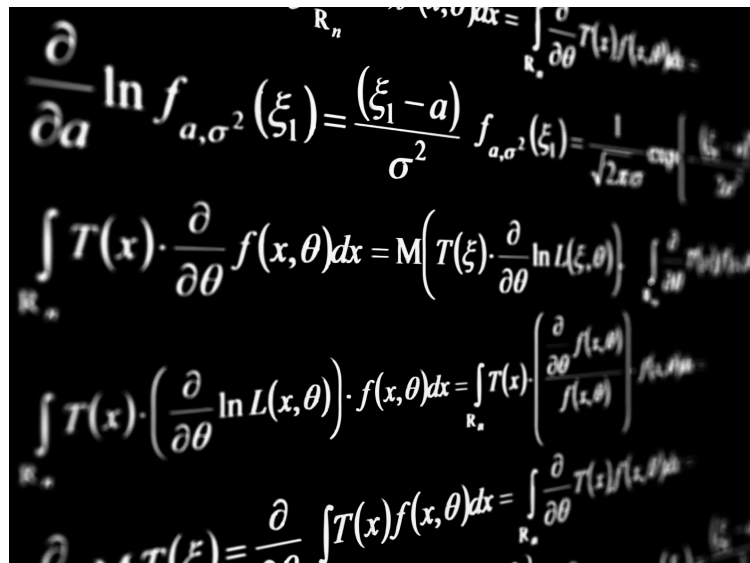


ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILIBERTO

CARNIVAL

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 26,
12 PM - 5 PM
MSC LAWN

Math Problem of the Week



Suppose you have a fair coin (equally likely to land on either side) and call one side "heads" and the other side "tails." What is the probability that you flip as many "heads" as "tails?"

Email solutions to **covertbj@umsl.edu**.

There were no correct guesses for this puzzle.

SGA Election Results

SGA Inauguration will take place on Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the SGA Chamber, Millennium Student Center.

The final SGA meeting of the year will take place on Friday, May 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the SGA Chamber.

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Intensive French

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Panel Discusses Budget Shortfall for Fiscal Year 2018

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which thus came to be known as the Budget Deficit Reduction Plan. That plan was to be implemented over a two-year period with about 75 percent of the benefits from reductions expected in FY17 and the other 25 percent in FY18. So far, Baniak said, the reduction plan has been successful.

"The plan that [Chancellor George] has put in place has been executed, and it's worked just the way it was intended to," said Baniak. "That's allowed us to stay on track to the \$3.6 million commitment that we made."

Despite the success of the budget reduction plan, however, an additional \$4.3 million reduction in state funding to the university in January worsened the current budget situation, expanding the projected \$3.6 million deficit to \$7.9 million.

"We're in kind of a realignment mode ... realignment of budget expenditures and budget revenue,"

said George. "We're actually doing very well to end fiscal year 2017."

George said that the university will be entering FY18 with the input of a fully shared governance process that includes students, tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty, and staff.

FY18 will begin July 1. UMSL will likely face similar financial challenges in FY18, according to Baniak, because the university is expecting that the \$4.3 million cut in state funding will increase to \$4.6 million next year.

One uncertainty relative to the budget lies with enrollment for the fall semester. Though attendance was high at UMSL Day, Baniak said that the university is still expecting a five percent decline in total enrollment for the upcoming semester, as total enrollment was down about five percent last fall.

The size of the student body depends on how many students graduate, how many students the university retains, and how many

students the university recruits.

Lucas, a student lobbyist for ASUM, discussed his perspective on the budget shortfall relative to the reduction in state funding to the university. He said that UMSL is often the first institution to see funding decreases because that funding can be made up through alternative sources of revenue.

"Obviously, we have ways that we can raise funds outside of tax revenues from the state, but it also means that ... we're one of the first they look to because they know that we can make up for it with tuition increases," said Lucas.

Hoffman added that some prospective donors and alumni are even reluctant to donate to UMSL because it is funded by the state, and many are under the impression that a large amount of state funding is allocated to the university.

"It's not that well known that such a small percentage comes from the state now," said Hoffman.

UMSL Offers Interdisciplinary Certificates and Potential Major

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born population has diminished, affecting its reputation as the Gateway to the West, St. Louis has always been a destination to which people from all over the world travel, including the French, Irish, and German.

Dr. Joyce Marie Mushaben, the new College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) professor of global studies and Curator's Distinguished Professor for Comparative Politics, who helped to create the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human diversity explained: "People in this town are very proud of their heritage. What they do not realize is that this is still going on. We still have waves and waves of these people arriving because of the International Institute that has been around for over a hundred years. ... Since we've had this going on for a hundred years, we have the institutional capacity [to help refugees]. As soon as these refugees come in, they get put in language classes, job training and citizenship classes."

As such a global place, anyone who works in St. Louis will inevitably encounter these cultures. This is where the certificates come in, helping students to learn about different cultures. "There are basic statistics as to why St. Louis needs people coming in to repopulate the city, and our certificates are supposed to teach people how to deal with cultural differences," Mushaben said.

"We see this as a three-legged stool," Mushaben explained. "The one [leg] will be the ethnicity, migration, human diversity, in general. Then the global health and social medicine is much more biology [based]. ... The third leg would be more involvement with the international business programs: trade, finance, international political economy, and economic potential here in the St. Louis area."

The Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity re-

quires 18 credit hours and offers students the chance to take courses in anthropology, sociology, social work, criminology, political science, history, teacher education, and international business, as well as requiring students to take a capstone course.

Mushaben said that she tried to get the certificate off the ground back in 2009 but met with some opposition in bringing the certificate into fruition then. The idea initially stemmed from Mushaben's work teaching political science senior seminars even earlier, in the mid 1990s. Students came into her courses knowing about American politics, but as a German scholar, Mushaben knew that sticking with just American politics was limiting,

so she asked her students to look locally to find global connections.

Students explored fascinating and unique topics, such as the rise of Spanish masses in Catholic churches in St. Louis and ethnic entrepreneurship in Bevo Mill after the influx of Bosnian immigrants. One student wrote about how the crack-down on H1B visas is causing Indian entrepreneurs to return to India where they begin startup companies with which St. Louis companies are now competing. Another student wrote about the connection between Monsanto's patented GMO seeds and increasing suicide rates in India. Mushaben explained that when Indian farmers could not pay for new seeds every year and re-

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CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

THE FOLLOWING is a series of daily crime and incident reports issued by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between April 15 and 17

April 15: At 9:28 a.m. a bicyclist was transported to the hospital with injuries after colliding with a vehicle in Lot NN at Marillac Drive.

April 16: At 9:53 a.m. a set of keys found in the Social Sciences and Business Building was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping.

April 17: At 9:32 a.m. a visitor who suffered a fall was treated by paramedics and released at the Recreation and Wellness Center.



Pam Shoemaker
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Chief of Police to Retire from UMSL PD

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from] CALEA. It gives us a body of standards to follow. Bob Roesler [former chief of UMSL PD], who was here in 1997, began that process of accreditation, and we've maintained accreditation since then.

TC: What made you choose UMSL?

Van Ness: I valued education a lot and knew how vitally important it was. I worked with Dean Gaffney from the evening college [while I was a student]. We had an evening college then. With that education, I was able to go into the headquarters for the St. Louis County Police Department.

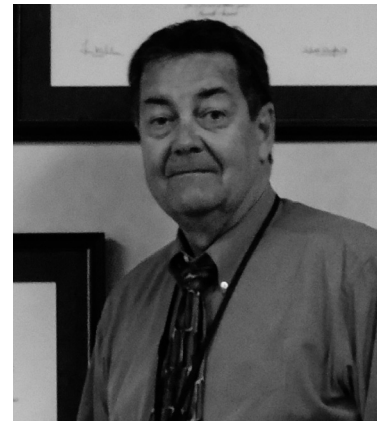
The value of the education was just so remarkable. It let me do things in my career that I could have never done without the education. So when I retired and learned of the position for the chief here, it was an opportunity to give back to the campus that had done so much [for] me.

TC: What are the biggest challenges you faced as chief of police, and what do you think are some of the things that might need to be [changed] under the next chief?

Van Ness: We're short three officers. Regionally and within the system, our pay structure needs to be reexamined. The Proposition P that was just recently passed is for municipal police. We won't get any benefit from that.

[We don't have] body-worn cameras. The other campuses have invested money in those, and we've not been able to invest money [in them]. We're working with REJIS (Regional Justice Information Service) to partner with them to provide funding for that. The cost of law enforcement continues to increase.

TC: What would you say have been some of your personal accomplishments as chief of police?



UMSL PD Chief Forrest Van Ness.

Van Ness: To walk and talk CALEA. To really create a culture that these professional standards are meaningful. It's all about that collaboration [and making] sure that we understand what our goals are and why we've got these goals.

TC: Do you think that you'll stay involved in the UMSL community once you retire?

Van Ness: I think so. Every year since I graduated, I put my donation card into the alumni association. I did that when I was with St. Louis County, I've done that since I've been here, and I'll continue to do it. I will share that I hand write in "the evening college" even though there's not an evening college [anymore].

HR asked if I'll participate in the selection process [for the next chief], and I said that I'll do whatever's asked.

TC: What will you miss most once you retire from UMSL PD?

Van Ness: Service to this community. I will probably transfer that service from this community to the church community because it's about giving more than you take. So I will miss that giving because it starts at six in the morning and doesn't end until late in the afternoon.

News Brief: RWC Jamba Juice Closed



The storefront of Jamba Juice, shortly after its grand opening in 2015.

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

THE RECREATION and Wellness Center (RWC) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is looking to fill the space of the Jamba Juice that was formerly located on the second floor of the center but closed in December.

Yvette Kell, director of campus recreation, said that the university made the decision to close the Jamba Juice based on low interest and

infrequent use.

"We are currently working with facilities to reconfigure the space over the summer to be utilized as a more functional space," said Kell.

Jamba Juice, which was operated by Sodexo, opened inside the RWC in August 2015 and celebrated its grand opening with a series of competitions, contests, and giveaways that fall. It offered smoothies and various snacks and beverages to patrons.

4 You Could Be in the Olympics Competing in eSports



eGames Showcase teams in Rio De Janeiro during the 2016 Olympics.

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DO NOT make fun of your friends for “wasting” their time playing League of Legends or other video games for hours on end—they could be practicing to be professional gamers or eSport athletes.

While video games were not even created until 1958, the video game industry has made great strides over the years with new and emerging technological advances. The new frontier for video games seems to be leaning toward the realm of sports. Not sport games, but people playing games for sport. There have been competitions like speed runs in the past, but the rise of the professional gamer and eSports is a different type of competition.

According to espn.com, professional gamers can earn six-figure salaries, sell out arenas at gaming tournaments, and even get college gaming scholarships. With large amounts of money at stake in competitions, there have been problems with match fixing and athlete doping. To mitigate these issues, the World eSports Association was created in 2016 to be like the IAAF in athletics to keep the competition fair.

In May 2016, CNN published a story on professional gamers explaining the sport’s rapidly increasing popularity: “[T]he eSports global audience grew from 204 million to 292 million between 2014 and 2016—a 43 percent increase in just two years—and it’s projected to exceed 427 million around the world by 2019.”

In 2016, there was a big push to make eSports globally recognized by submitting professional gaming as an Olympic sport. The International e-Sports Federation (IeSF), a South Korean organization, submitted a request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on February 19, 2016, to obtain information on how to gain recognition for competitive gaming as part of the Olympic Games. IeSF received an answer on April 8, 2016 with the materials and paperwork to move forward with the request.

TheScore eSports reported that applicants were required to fill out paperwork that covered basic information, popularity, history and tradition, universality, governance, and development of the sport. Evaluations of applications were reviewed in December.

The International eGames Committee (IeGC), a non-profit organization, in cooperation with the IOC, hosted an esports event in Rio de Janeiro alongside the Olympic Games later that year.

There was a 2-day showcase held on August 15 and 16 last year to promote video gaming to the non-gamer population. Ally from eTeam Canada received gold at the Rio de Janeiro eGames Showcase 2016, Larry Lurr of the USA was awarded silver, and Mexico’s MKLeo finished in the bronze-medal position. The eGames 2018 planning is already underway with discussion with South Korea and Japan.

eSports have faced some scrutiny from the X Games. The X Games are aired on ESPN and began in 1995, showcasing sports such as

snowboarding. In 2016, the X Games gave out medals to the winners of a Halo 5 tournament. Freestyle skier Kristi Leskinen went to Twitter and attacked the winners, saying they were not real athletes. She later clarified that she thinks X Games medals should be reserved for athletes who risk injury.

eSports have not gone away, despite opposition. ESPN launched a website focused solely on eSports, which features stories like Stephens College of Columbia, Missouri, being the first all women’s school to offer varsity eSports. News stations like CNN and others are consistently posting stories on the topic and covering tournaments.

Earlier in February this year, the National Basketball Association’s commissioner Adam Silver announced the “NBA 2K eLeague” partnership with Take-Two Interactive Software. This will be the first official eSports league that is operated by a U.S. professional sports league. The eLeague is a proposed joint venture among 30 NBA organizations, each of which would have an e-team of their own with five professional gamers paid to play a version of the NBA 2K video game. The eLeague is set to launch in 2018.

But it is not just a U.S. sport. It was announced on April 17 that the Olympic Council of Asia that it will include eSports in the 2018 Asian Games and make it a medal sport in 2022.

It is easy to see that esports are on the rise, so if you want to be one of the first competitors in the Olympics for eSports, you better start practicing.

SAAC Connects UMSL Students With Athletics

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) was created by and for the athletes at UMSL and has been around for a long time.

“We’re actually used for a lot of different administrative things like the rules and any legislation amongst athletics will go through us,” said Sara Kern, senior, business marketing.

Kern, who has been a part of SAAC for each of her four years at UMSL, adds that the organization is a liaison between students, the athletic board, and the directors at UMSL and makes sure athletes are getting involved with other students on campus and the community around the school.

The organization does this by doing community service and working with the Make-A-Wish foundation.

“We worked with a few Make-A-Wish families this fall. We actually had a Make-A-Wish day that was super successful. We raised a lot of money. Last year it was \$800, and this year we fundraised almost \$1,500,” she said.

SAAC was designed to have two members per team, with an upper-classman and a lower classman. In total, UMSL has 13 athletic teams, translating to 26 members on the committee.

“I think we would all love for regular student involvement to be a lot higher than it is. But I feel like Mark Twain is its own part of campus and that not many people go over there.”

“We meet every three weeks so we really have somewhere in the twenties. Some sports have one person, some have three. It’s not super strict, but it’s hard to get all of us to meet together. We’re all in different seasons, and schedules are hectic,” Kern said. “At a meeting, I say we get around 15 to 20 people.”

Kern is one of four officers who are all in their last years as leaders of the committee. They include the president, Evan Garrad, senior, biochemistry, and co-vice presidents Joe Rund, senior, biology, and Kevin Smith, senior, criminal justice. But for Kern, juggling the responsibilities of secretary of the committee, softball, and class hasn’t tired the student athlete out one bit.

“I’ve kind of gotten used to being a crazy person running around doing too many things,” Kern said.

In SAAC one is supposed to be a leader among your team. One is responsible for getting the word out and getting your team involved around campus, so someone quiet and reserved may not be the best fit. Kern believes her coach chose her for the position because she was the complete opposite of that. In her freshman year, Kern’s softball coach chose her to represent the team at SAAC, as its senior member had left the committee after graduating.

“We needed a new person, so my coach basically just said, ‘Find out what SAAC is—you are our new



SAAC Board of Executive member and senior, Sara Kern

member,” Kern recalled.

Kern added, “Your coach can decide or your current members can just pick. It’s me and a sophomore currently that’s in SAAC. So I just choose a freshman whose going to start coming to meetings now at the very end of this year so she can kind of be ready for being an SAAC member next year.”

Apart from the legislation and community service project, SAAC

has also been involved in increasing turnout for UMSL’s athletic games on campus.

“I think we would all love for regular student involvement to be a lot higher than it is. But I feel like Mark Twain is its own part of campus and that not many people go over there, especially now that we have the REC. I’m sure 10 percent of the population at school can tell you where where the softball field is, and they’re probably all art majors because it’s by the art building—half their windows have been broken by softballs. It’s all spread out, and there’s no real sense of location. I think that’s an issue,” Kern said. “We’ve been trying to work on putting posters up in the student center about attending our sporting events. We have an app called Triton HQ that encourages students to come and get points. You get points on the app and once you get enough points you can get a free soda, a free meal, or a free sweatshirt.”

As her time with the committee and with UMSL comes to an end, Kern definitely feels she has gained the knowledge and experience of a leader not only in the organization but with her team as well.

“You’re kind of forced to step up, be a leader, spread the word, and let people know you’re out here for a cause,” Kern said. “You’ve got to be kind of pushy, maybe a little like a salesman.”



The Rio De Janeiro eGames Showcase featured athletes competing in “Super Smash Bros: Brawl” on the Nintendo Wii.

Review: “La Pazza Gioia” Is Funny, Sad, and Inspiring



Valeria Bruni Tedeschi and Micaela Ramazzotti star in “La Pazza Gioia,” which showed this week as part of Italian Film Festival USA.

CHRIS ZUVER
STAFF WRITER

ON APRIL 21, as part of the 13th Italian Film Festival USA, the film “La Pazza Gioia” (“Like Crazy”) was shown at the Jerzewiak Family Auditorium at Washington University as part of an ongoing series.

The film, directed by Paolo Virze, is described by PANORAMA as “an Italian comedy in the style of ‘Thelma & Louise.’”

The plot revolves around Beatrice (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) and Donatella (Micaela Ramazzotti), two women who are patients of a mental institution in Tuscany. Beatrice is an extrovert and claims to be of nobility, while Donatella is withdrawn and mysterious. Over time, these two opposites come together to become friends and escape the ward in an adventure to find happiness.

For the mainstream American audience, this film will certainly come across as off-beat in terms of what many would consider a comedy. As the plot progresses, there is a harsh streak of darkness that is shown in the backstory of the two

female protagonists who both confront remnants of their pasts and ultimately face the reality of who they are. Yet during the whole fiasco, the comedic elements hardly let up.

As for the comedy, the jokes are often brief but are always effective. The humor is mostly based in the dialogue that occurs between the two female leads, who make claims that range from silly snubs between each other to bigoted racial or sexual remarks.

The real point of interest is the dichotomy between Beatrice and Donatella. Beatrice immediately takes interest in Donatella, who, at the beginning of the movie, is a new patient at the institution. At first, the two do not get along well. Donatella dismisses Beatrice for her crude personality. However, the two quickly develop a camaraderie and escape the institution by means of a bus that they flag down near their ward.

Throughout the film, the two battle over interests as they travel through Italy. Beatrice, being a care-free spirit on the outside, tries to run from her problems and in doing so acts impulsively. Donatella, howev-

er, lives with regret and a crippling depression that causes her to withdraw and lash out when provoked.

When applied to the rating system of this country, “La Pazza Gioia” would probably receive an R, though the film dances on a fine line. There are a couple of brief scenes of nudity, a handful of phrases that would be deemed offensive, and a few disturbingly graphic moments. Yet for the most part, the content seems to be in the PG-13 area.

Ultimately, “La Pazza Gioia” is a film about multiple dimensions. In the movie, we see love, friendship, acceptance, insanity, laughter, and through it all—humanity. While it is clear in the film that the leading ladies are out of their minds, they have hearts that shine through the difficulty of their struggles and, in the end, prove that they are interested in more than just their own problems.

“La Pazza Gioia” and other Italian films will continue their tour through the country as part of the Italian Film Festival USA, whose final stop will be in Milwaukee from April 28–30.

Marvel’s “Iron Fist” Lacks Punch

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

ON MARCH 17, Marvel introduced the world to another beloved comic book hero in the new Netflix series “Iron Fist.” Danny Rand (Finn Jones), the star of the show, survived a mysterious plane crash when he was just 10 years old. After his parents died instantly in the crash, a group of warrior monks adopted the orphaned Danny and raised him in a city by the name of K’un Lun. Enduring harsh conditions and trial after trial, Danny finally earned the mark of the city’s most powerful weapon, the Iron Fist. However, instead of staying in K’un Lun, he leaves for New York to reconnect with his past and restore his family’s legacy.

No matter how you first encountered the Iron Fist—whether it was straight from the comic books or just from the shows—the execution of this show leaves much to be desired. Two essential things were missing: sufficient character building and a set storyline. The first episode was a good start, introducing Danny Rand’s return to K’un Lun and following him as he attempts to reconnect with old friends from his childhood. Even the quick fighting scenes that do not overlap one another become refreshing to watch. So where did the show go wrong?

The fighting scenes become too repetitive, the same moves being copied at every opportunity with an overload of roundhouse kicks. The ultimate “boss battle”—or what is supposed to be—is a poor attempt to bring video games like “Soulcalibur” and “Tekken” to life. It consists of a series of competitors he has to defeat in order to confront Madame Gao, the villain who sells a more addictive version of heroin on the streets.

In fact, Madame Gao—played by Wai Ching Ho and also seen in “Daredevil”—never receives the proper recognition she deserves. One of only two characters who add depth to the boring plot, this villain and her clever plans are constantly interrupted by Danny Rand’s melodramatic crying scenes. The only

other interesting character is Ward Meachum (Tom Pelphrey), who battles prescription addiction and the torture of his father.

You can’t really blame the actor for this fault. In retrospect, Jones plays his part according to the script. Unfortunately, the script is the actual problem. It is weighed down with side character stories that add no depth to the plot. While I commend Scott Buck, the creator of the show, for his attempt to fit so many storylines into one season, he probably should have spread them out through multiple seasons instead. For instance, season one should have focused on the character development of Madame Gao and Danny Rand; then season two should have focused on Danny’s adventures but also touch on other characters of importance to the show. Instead, it focuses on Danny’s love interest, Colleen Wing (Jessica Henwick), whom he trusts, only to find that she is a member of the enemy clan, The Hand; Joy Meachum (Jessica Stroup), his childhood friend and crush who is constantly with him or against him; Harold Meachum (David Wenham), who uses him to get out of hiding and take over the company; and even Claire Temple (Rosario Dawson), a character constantly seen throughout Marvel’s Netflix series.

The writers should have copied the introduction they gave Danny Rand’s old friend Davos (Sacha Dhawan), where the face was finally brought to the name that Danny had been talking about. He came with his missions, displayed his frustration with Danny’s choices—something the audience could agree with—and fought when needed. It is understandable that Buck was trying to emphasize that Danny felt betrayed by the people around him, but it was just too much.

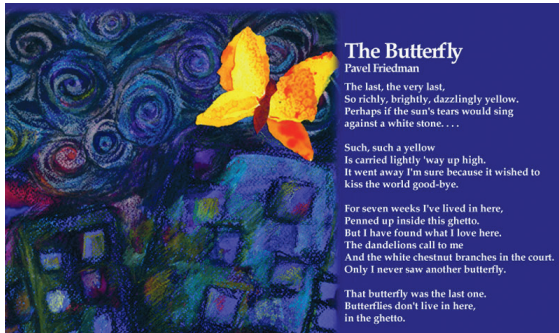
As for Danny, his fight scenes were nice, but as a character, he is unrelatable and even annoying at times. He never learns from his mistakes, which soon becomes repetitive, and he keep blaming everyone around him for the faults of his life, even until the end of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ARTS CALENDAR



Trevor Noah, the South African stand-up comedian and current host of “The Daily Show” on Comedy Central, will perform at the **Touhill Performing Arts Center** on **April 29 at 8 p.m.** The show is part of UMSL’s annual Mirth-week celebration. Noah, who is famous for his social commentary and political satire, has won numerous awards, including the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work by a Debut Author, the South African Comics’ Choice Award for Comic of the Year, and the MTV African Music Award for Person of the Year. Tickets are sold out.



In commemoration of Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day 2017, Dr. Kathleen Butterly Nigro, Dr. Gail Fleming, and Dr. Barbara Harbach from the University of Missouri-St. Louis will present “**Voices from the Holocaust: Music Makes You Free**” on **April 26 at 4 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public and will take place in **Music Hall 205** in the Music Building, **7930 Natural Bridge Road**. “Voices from the Holocaust” will feature three outstanding musicians, who will be performing original compositions composed by Dr. Fleming and Dr. Harbach: Stella Markou, soprano; Julia Sakharova, violin; and Alla Voskoboinikova, piano.

Celebrating The Arts

The 15th annual art exhibit showcasing UMSL community drawings, paintings, photography, sculptures and more!

The Pierre Laclède Honors College will host its **annual juried art show** this week on the first and second floors of **Provincial House** on UMSL’s south campus. “Celebrating the Arts 2017,” which features original creative works by UMSL students, staff, and faculty, will open to visitors **April 24** and run through **April 27**. Viewing hours are **between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily**. Visitors are encouraged to vote for “Best in Show” and “Runner Up,” the winners of which will be awarded prizes at the closing reception in Provincial House on April 27 from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. **Voting ends on April 27 at 3 p.m.** “Celebrating the Arts 2017” is free and open to the public.

Global Studies Certificates and New Proposed Major

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
planted Monsanto's patented seeds, Monsanto sued the farmers. This caused them to go into debt and, in some cases, kill themselves.

"It was those projects over time that made me think that this is a rich area for research projects. There is just lots of stuff you can do here," Mushaben explained. "This town is just popping with all of these global/local connections. If we can give people a piece of paper, some line in their DARS that says they've got some skills in trying to understand these cultures, [and] trying to interact [with these cultures] ... [that gives the students something] that other people don't have."

While the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity offers students the chance to complete research projects, it also offers students the opportunity to gain practical skills as well. "Our idea is pragmatic as well as it is an interesting research field. There are lots of topics that we are working on. ... Academically, it's an up and coming field, but more importantly it has serious economic implications for the future of St. Louis, which has always been a city of migration, [and] integration," Mushaben said. "We want to make this more hands-on for local police departments, for social workers, [and] for people in hospitals."

Mushaben used the example of service workers who may deal with families from different countries. "You can't go into the family and talk to the 8-year-old just because the 8-year-old is the only one who speaks English. You have to at least go through the motions of addressing the father of the family, who will then ask the 8-year-old to translate. Otherwise, you've just destroyed his authority in the family, and so you're not going to get anybody cooperating with you," she said.

The Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity features a variety of interesting courses, including a core course called Diversity in the City: The Eth-

nic Experience in St. Louis. Mushaben explained that the course will feature panels of people from different ethnic backgrounds coming in to speak with students about diversity topics, including religion, food, and possibly even music.

Another popular course which Mushaben teaches and which will count toward the certificate is "Sex Trafficking in a Cross Cultural Perspective," which will focus on the local, national, and international levels of sex trafficking. "The people who are sex and human trafficked here [in St. Louis] are not necessarily foreigners. They are runaways. [However] in Europe... after Kosovo in particular, all of these women were sex trafficked out of Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria [and] they were used in the brothels in Amsterdam," Mushaben said, explaining the global differences in sex trafficking.

As one of the founding mothers of the Women's Studies Program at UMSL, Mushaben intends to talk about gender issues in the course as well, including how sex trafficking has affected women in the wake of the recent refugee crises. "One study showed that over 60 percent of the women who had come in from Africa were pregnant by the time they got [to a refugee camp in Malta]. They may have been assaulted on the way over," Mushaben explained.

Additionally, she said that Nigerian women who were being used for sex trafficking were being smuggled into camps on refugee boats. "Not a happy topic, but somebody has to talk about it," Mushaben said. "Mega Cities and Diasporas: Understanding Global Migration" is another popular course which Mushaben teaches. The class focuses on non-Western cities with millions of inhabitants and the interrelated and systemic problems that these cities face. Mushaben explained, "When you are talking about a city of 22 million people and no toilets, you've got an ecological problem, not to mention health problems."

Students have some freedom to choose which cities and issues pique their interests and then can further develop these interests during the course of the class. In the past, students have taken an interest in issues such as the pavement dwellers in Mumbai and Delhi. "They literally have to carve out a section for themselves on the street. That's all they have. There are millions of them," Mushaben explained.

Others have become interested in the people who create livelihoods by collecting trash and selling plastic. "The human resilience [is amazing], and then you think ...we can't even get people to put stuff in a recycling bin. These people are creating a livelihood for themselves out of collecting garbage. It's just amazing and inspiring," Mushaben said.

The Global Health and Social Medicine minor takes a different angle than the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration and Human Diversity but maintains the interdisciplinary focus, the attention to cultural differences, and the connections between the local and global communities.

Like the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity, the Global Health and Social Medicine minor has been in the making for a while now, and was included in the first five-year proposal under the previous UM-System president, Timothy Wolfe, who took office in 2012. Dr. Susan Brownell, professor of anthropology who worked to create the curriculum for the minor, said Dean Ronald Yasbin first proposed the idea for a bio-cultural course of study with the department of anthropology and archaeology as a core contributor. While the idea was approved at the campus-level, it was not approved at the system level at that time.

Since the minor has been approved, Brownell has also put together the curriculum for a major in Global Health and Social Medicine, which is currently pending approval at the University of Missouri System

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Problem Solving and Thinking Strategies: UMSL Math Club

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

IN HIS 1864 novel, "Notes From the Underground," Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "The formula twice times two makes five is not without its attractions." While this may be true, Ian Edwards, junior, computer science, and president of the Math Club at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Dr. David Covert, assistant teaching professor of math and computer science, see correct mathematics calculations as an integral part of a functioning society.

"From something simple, such as telling time, or a more advanced application, such as estimating the total bags of concrete mix needed to make a slab, math has made such tasks achievable," Edwards said. He also cited latitude and longitude and fuel calculations as other ways that math helps people in their everyday lives. "In short, math is the language of the universe. It helps us create and explain our environment," he said.

Covert, who has served as the faculty advisor for the Math Club since fall 2016, agrees that math helps people engage with their environments in a more complex and dynamic manner. "Math is the language we humans use to understand and talk about the universe, and the abstraction in math breeds problem solving," he said. "Neil deGrasse Ty-

he said.

Covert continued, "One of the first things that attracted me to math was the exactness of it. Every problem seemed to have exactly one solution, and there were often convergent methods for arriving at the same answer. This absoluteness turned out to be an oversimplification, but it was one of the aspects of math I liked best as a beginning undergraduate student. ... The fall after I graduated college, I went straight to ... graduate school," Covert said.

Edwards listed actuarial scientist, mathematics professor, logistician, and market research analyst as some possible career choices for students who choose to pursue a degree in mathematics.

"Math is a very versatile degree," Covert continued. "Of course, there are many of the traditional options for a math degree. You can become a teacher, engineer, actuary, or statistician, for example. However, math (and computer science) is really about learning how to think abstractly and solve problems, and [those skills are] applicable to every field and every job. Beyond a career, it is deeply important for everyone to be mathematically and scientifically literate to be better able to understand the world and to make well-informed and evidence-based decisions."

According to Edwards, the Math

"In short, math is the language of the universe. It helps us create and explain our environment."

son said it well: "There are people who say, 'I'll never need this math,' these trig identities from 10th grade or 11th grade, or maybe you never learned them. Here's the catch. Whether or not you ever again use the math that you learned in school, the act of having learned the math established a wiring in your brain that didn't exist before. And it's the wiring in your brain that makes you the problem solver."

There are different types of math that enable people to understand the world though. Edwards listed algebra, number theory, logic, differential equations, statistics, and calculus and analysis, citing statistics as his personal favorite.

"I became interested in mathematics my freshman year of high school when I began to understand the importance of math, despite the challenges it imposed," Edwards continued. "Mathematics has provided me strategies for altering my thought process about the methods I use to solve my current problems, whether they be academic or outside of the classroom environment."

Likewise, Covert discovered his interest in math at a young age. "I realized I had an interest in math when I was in middle school. My older brother was interested in learning tricks in mental arithmetic, and the tricks he showed me piqued my interest. I ended up liking math quite a bit—more than he did!—and majored in it as an undergraduate,"

Club at UMSL was founded in 1968, with the earliest documented constitution dating back to 1976. The Math Club became a student chapter in the Mathematical Association of America on January 23, 1987. Edwards said that the president of the organization at the time, Al Stanger, who currently serves as an assistant teaching professor and the Math Academic Center Supervisor, received the chartering document.

Today, the Math Club remains active. The organization meets twice per month and they usually watch math-related videos or discuss mathematical surprises, including fractals, mental arithmetic with calendar dates, and graph coloring, according to Covert.

The club also holds events such as Pi Day and Fibonacci Day and invites students to discuss math-related topics and listen to presentations from speakers with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) backgrounds.

In looking to the future, the Math Club has several goals. According to Covert, the organization hopes to acquaint students with each other and the faculty and to deepen members' grasps of the underlying concepts of mathematics. They also hope to show students the various and interesting or useful applications of the science of math, and to offer Math Club members an opportunity to gain insight into the various fields of

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AMBITION

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Is Facebook Responsible for Monitoring Crimes?

MELVIN TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

ON EASTER Sunday, Steve Stephens, 37, murdered Robert Godwin Sr., 74, and uploaded a video recording of the murder to Facebook. Before this, Stephens went on Facebook Live explaining that he was going to murder people because he was angry with his ex-girlfriend, Joy Lane, and his mother, Maggie Green. Stephens also claimed to have murdered 13 other people, but the murders were never confirmed. The videos of Stephens' crime quickly attracted thousands of viewers, and media outlets closely tracked the nearly 2-day ensuing police pursuit. The chase came to an end when a Pennsylvania McDonald's worker withheld Stephens' food and called police after recognizing him. Stephens became impatient and drove off, but the police were already on his trail. Stephens pulled over his car and committed suicide.

The role of Facebook, the website where Stephens uploaded a video of the murder, in this situation has become a matter of debate. The video of Godwin's death was on its site for three hours and had been shared on many other social media sites. It is odd to blame Facebook for the material put on their site, as many have done. It is true that allowing the video to stay on Facebook is disrespectful to Godwin's family—but I would argue that the raw footage of the death and Stephens' rants are what kept people informed about the case. I first learned about this

situation after viewing the video of Stephens talking to his friend on the phone. It took a while for the media to cover the topic. In fact, I learned more from social media than the news media itself. Things only became more serious for the news media when the chase for Stephens was heading into its second day.

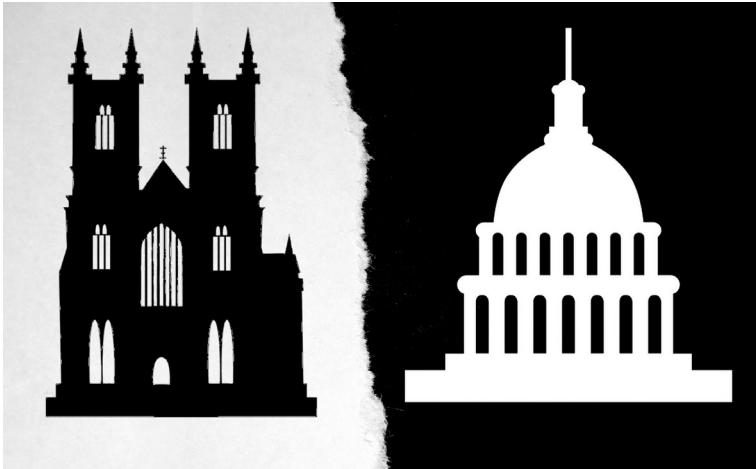
Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media applications have features which allow users to "live stream" video content. These features have been used to publicize the live deaths of many other victims. In one instance, Katelyn Nicole Davis, 12, hanged herself on Facebook Live. Malachi Hemphill, 13, accidentally shot himself while livestreaming on Instagram. A man with special needs was kidnapped and tortured on Facebook Live. Occurrences like this are becoming increasingly common. I attribute this to the relative ease with which people can use social media. Facebook and YouTube upload live videos shortly after the livestream ends. If a user wants to send a message to the world, it can be quickly uploaded, downloaded, shared, and reuploaded.

As gruesome and scary as the recent videos were, I think they helped to identify Stephens and led to a faster resolution. If Stephens had not posted those videos, it would have taken a while to even figure out who had murdered Godwin. The media and many of us found out about Stephens because of those videos. After removing the video and Stephens' account, Facebook released a statement that said, "This is a horrific

crime and we do not allow this kind of content on Facebook. We work hard to keep a safe environment on Facebook and are in touch with law enforcement in emergencies when there are direct threats to physical safety." If Facebook had taken the videos down quickly, I do not think Stephens would have been found. The McDonald's worker who identified Stephens was able to do so, in part, because of the case's publicity. The worker could have only learned about his appearance from the online videos or the news. The news got their information from the videos. Whether I like it or not, these videos are a central part in this case.

In the cases of Stephens and the Facebook live torture, those videos led to the perpetrators being found. The only way to stop these Facebook murders and suicides is to get rid of the live feature or monitor users' activity heavily. I disagree with both of these actions. We shouldn't let a few bad apples spoil the whole bunch. Facebook has had positive uses for its live feature, such as classic TV shows being streamed, fun video challenges, and waiting on April the Giraffe to give birth. Besides, getting rid of live streaming will just push people to find another way to upload horrific content. Monitoring users heavily is an issue because things may eventually get to the point where everything is censored at the sacrifice of privacy. Facebook could check content before it is allowed to go live, but I think that would discourage people from using the feature.

The Case for Separation of Church and State



KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FOR A relatively small state—only two percent of the population of the United States—Missouri is often at the forefront of the nation's controversial issues.

Pending before the U.S. Supreme Court is a case challenging a provision of Missouri's constitution barring public funds from going to churches. Arguments were heard before the court last week and a decision is likely to be rendered in late June.

For those who believe in the necessity of strict separation between church and state, the potential outcome does not look good. A church in Missouri was denied state grant funding for playground improvements because of the clause in the Missouri Constitution that bars public monies from supporting religious institutions. The defendants are claiming religious discrimination, and even some of the more liberal judges on the Supreme Court seem to side with them.

While some acknowledge that the U.S. Constitution forbids the institution of laws against the free exercise of religion, they also contend that there is no requirement for state sponsorship or financial support of religion and that to do so would show state preference for one religion over another.

This decision would have far-ranging consequences, since 40 states currently have provisions similar to the one in the Missouri Constitution.

While it may seem like an innocent enough claim—that children playing on a church playground should benefit from the same improvements as those on a public playground—many issues are at play in the playground dispute. For instance, what if several religious institutions all applied for grant money, and one gets funding and seven do not? If the Christian school gets the grant and not the Jewish, Catholic, Hindu, or Muslim schools, would they not have a case to sue that the state just chose one religion over another and discriminated against them?

What about a strict religious school that is only for boys or only for girls? Is that not sexual discrimination?

This is a slippery slope, and one

that could get a lot more slippery. There are limited public funds to pay for the basic needs of primary, secondary, and higher public education in the state of Missouri. Will private, religious-based institutions like Saint Louis University be able to demand money from the state after claiming religious discrimination?

This past week there was a contentious debate in the Missouri House of Representatives over a bill designed to end discrimination against members of the LGBT community for things like housing and public accommodations. The proposed bill would have expanded Missouri's Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation.

State Representative Tom Hannegan (R-St. Charles) joined Democrats in co-sponsoring the bill and testified that, "Discrimination is discrimination is discrimination. I don't believe in protected classes. I think everybody should have the same rights, the same freedoms, the same law of protection."

Still, this bill aimed at ending "actual discrimination" was attacked by religious conservatives like Alyssa Johnson of Concerned Women of America, who testified, "I am an Evangelical Christian, and my viewpoint on the matter is that the Bible does not condone homosexual lifestyles."

While we do not know Johnson's views on the case pending before the Supreme Court, the fact is that churches are claiming that their rights should be protected against discrimination by the state when it comes to them wanting public tax dollars. And at the same time, some of those very same religious groups feel they should have the right to discriminate against others.

The hypocrisy should be self-evident. But that hypocrisy is then compounded by the fact that the same religious institutions ready to lay hands on public tax dollars staunchly believe that they should remain free of the burden of paying taxes. If the Supreme Court does rule that denying churches access to public tax dollars is discrimination, then how can they deny that their exemption from paying those same taxes is not discriminating against all other taxpayers? The separation of church and state should remain intact, and no burden should be placed on public funding sources to those exempt from taxation.

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UMSL Offers Interdisciplinary Global Studies Certificates and Proposes Major

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
level again.

The minor currently requires students to take 15-16 credit hours in diverse fields, including anthropology and archaeology, as well as courses in biology, sociology, and gerontology. The proposed major would offer students the same variety of courses, as well as additional courses in psychology, philosophy, criminology, economics, and a capstone project, totaling 37 – 42 credit hours.

“Increasingly, science is starting to realize that public health... involves the interaction of the environment, lifestyle, genetics, humans, and animals, interestingly,” Brownell said, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the programs. “[Social medicine is] grounded in sociology, anthropology, economics, and gerontology.”

Brownell said that social medicine differs from biology in the level of focus. “The focus [in social medicine] is on population-level health. The biological approach [focuses on] the individual organism and medication and how to treat individual disease and individual people. The social approach looks more at disease patterns in a bigger population,” she said.

She cited questions such as why AIDS disproportionately affects drug users and African Americans, as questions that might be addressed by social medicine. Other questions center on why diseases like obesity and diabetes remain prevalent, despite the fact that doctors are aware of the risk factors and causes of these diseases. “You are trying to parse out, at the population level, what is causing certain diseases to be more prevalent in certain people. The answer to that is often not a biological one, it is a social one,” she said.

While the degree focuses on the population-levels of health, it will still take into account the individual with its attention to cultural differences. “In the profession of medicine, they are starting to realize that the doctors that they have been training, perhaps in part because of their single-minded focus on biology, biochemistry, and the hard sciences, are not trained to deal with real people. Cultural sensitivity... is a recognized issue that doctors often lack. You often have doctors who are maybe white, male, middle-class, and increasingly, they are dealing with immigrants, for example. So, they are just not necessarily prepared to deal with people of different cultural backgrounds. Cultural sensitivity is an acknowledged issue that needs more attention for both nurses and for doctors and physicians,” Brownell explained.

Like the other certificate, both the Global Health and Social Medicine minor and the proposed major focus on the connection between the St. Louis community and the global community. As an example of this, Brownell cited the recent pandemic scares which have reverberated throughout the medical community, including zoonoses, or diseases that originate in animals and then mutate and infect humans.

“I think that the people who study pandemics don’t get a lot of

sleep at night because they know that [with] the situation we are [in] right now, we are just ripe for a pandemic. Whatever hits [other parts of the world] is going to be at our doorstep. Health is now global... We saw that with Ebola, we saw that with Zika, [and] West Nile Virus. For selfish reasons, we can’t ignore the crises in healthcare elsewhere in the world because they are also our problem,” Brownell said. “We started to realize that, in terms of... infectious diseases and diseases that might become pandemics, that we needed an interdisciplinary approach that brings together social scientists, biologically-based doctors, and even veterinarians and environmentalists. [It is a part of] this bigger change in medicine towards this more holistic, interdisciplinary approach to looking at illness.”

As with the Certificate in Ethnicity, Migration, and Human Diversity, social justice is also a concern for the Global Health and Social Medicine minor and proposed major. Brownell said that poor countries and poverty-stricken areas of the urban United States can become cesspools of disease that then affect the rest of the world as well. “There is a concern about social injustice because, among other things, it threatens the health of all of us. Not to mention, it would be good if injustice were gone,” Brownell explained.

Brownell said that students can benefit from both the minor and the pending major in a number of ways. Firstly, she said that while it is not an easy major, it also equips students with skills that will benefit them on the job market, including the ability to do math with classes like social statistics. These skills will help students to perform the different types of analyses that they might be asked to perform in different jobs, as well as help them to write number-driven grant proposals.

The degree programs are also specifically tailored toward student interests, as Brownell looked at student survey data to determine which courses should be included in the

programs. While biology often requires students to learn about things other than the health of human beings, such as animals, cellular functions, and high-level mathematics, the Global Health and Social Medicine minor and the pending major would focus on humans specifically. Additionally, the major would offer an alternative route into healthcare professions for students who do not wish to become physicians.

Popular classes in the minor and pending major include “Alcohol, Drugs, and Society,” “Body and Culture,” and “Medicine, Culture, and History.”

“Anyone involved in the healthcare profession needs to understand alcohol, drugs, and society because that touches upon so many healthcare issues,” Brownell said, highlighting the relevance of the course.

The “Body and Culture” course examines not just cultural practices of body modification, such as tattooing, piercing, female genital mutilation, and medical traditions, but also the things that people believe about their bodies which drive some of these practices. “[These are all] things that [students] might be likely to run into in their practice. [It will] help them make sense of it.”

Brownell teaches the “Medicine, Culture, and History” course and said that she enjoys teaching it and has learned a lot from it. “I am educating my students and I think they are better aware of why some of these issues are important, [such as] why it is important for the U.S. Congress to allot funding for controlling Zika. [They are becoming] a better-informed citizenry so that they know the potential threats and so that they can guide policy makers into putting funding where it should go,” she said.

While the certificates differ in their focus, the interdisciplinary nature of both minors and the proposed major offer UMSL students several advantages. Both Brownell and Mushaben said that students take their required courses first, and often are not even introduced to

some of the professors who do global work until their junior or senior year. “Even if a student were able to fit [all of the classes] into their schedule, they would have trouble finding them all. They wouldn’t know where to look,” Brownell pointed out. With the certificate and pending major, the courses are brought together in a coherent and easy to find way. In addition, the minors and proposed major take advantage of unique faculty and classes that already exist at UMSL.

The interdisciplinary nature of the programs enable students to not only augment their transcripts and job applications, but also gives them critical thinking skills and the ability to think across disciplines.

Mushaben, who studies new social movements and youth protests, and has lived and studied in Germany for 18 years, said “I can’t do any research on Germany without knowing history. I can’t continue my research without thinking of demographics, [and] what future that holds for economics. I clearly can’t do my research without [knowing how to speak a] foreign language. I think that [we should teach] students at the beginning that it is good to know a little bit of everybody’s discipline, because you’re not here to become a specialist. You’re here to learn how to think. You are here to learn how to take pieces of information and to synthesize them... You can do this when you hear that this is the way that historians approach it. This is the way that political scientists approach it. Then you are going to go to an employer and you can say ‘We didn’t think about this,’ as opposed to saying, ‘I only know this. I only care about that.’ You can’t do business in St. Louis without knowing about foreign cultures and foreign companies anymore”

Brownell agrees. Though UMSL offers a few interdisciplinary minors, as well as a Bachelor’s degree of International Studies and a Bachelor’s degree of Liberal Studies,

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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“Iron Fist” Falls Short

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show. Throughout the entire season, Danny treats life as if he were still a kid, though by the end, it was clear that some kind of personal growth was supposed to have happened—which raises the question of why he receives the Iron Fist to begin with. After all, it is supposed to be a sacred weapon only given to the person chosen to protect K’un Lun. Yet Danny fails to understand why his friend Davos, who grew up with him, is upset that he left them unprotected.

The show lacks so much detail in its storyline that most fans will have to force themselves to finish just to say they have conquered another Marvel Netflix series. I suppose the writers thought that adding famous actors would increase ratings. This is one Marvel show that definitely does not deserve a second season.

Math Club Solves Students’ Problems

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mathematics. Covert said that the Math Club also hopes to expose students to the opportunities available to them in these fields as well. Edwards said that they also hope to increase regular attendance at meetings, increase university awareness of the organization, and to have a “prosperous and well-populated Pi-Day.”

Though math is often considered a difficult and intimidating subject by students, Edwards said that, like learning a structured and logical language, students can learn math with time and effort. “Math is usually seen as a foreign language, and just like any language, some of the ‘grammar’ in math may not be the easiest to understand. However, it’s not impossible. With enough patience and practice, you’ll start understanding the ‘sentence structure’ (theorems, formulas). Then having ‘conversations’ (solving problems) becomes much easier. I hope that students, specifically those who view math as intimidating, can begin to speak the language of math and see the world from a new perspective,” he said.

While the formula twice times two makes five may not be without its attractions, the formula twice times two makes four offers more pragmatic and applicable advantages for students.

UMSL Sustainability Plants Native Garden on North Campus

Volunteers gathered on April 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. planting a native garden outside of Stadler Hall.

The garden was designed to encourage growth, beauty, and functionality for study and conservation efforts. The project goals included improving water quality by managing storm water runoff and nutrient use, restoring healthy soil by eliminating excessive pesticide use, revitalizing quality habits by removing invasive species, replenishing populations of native plants, and conserving water resources.

The garden was sponsored by faculty, staff, and students in the University of Missouri-St. Louis Biology Department, the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, the Whitney Harris Ecology Center, UMSL Sustainability, and community partners.



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